

ACMRS NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2014



From October 2-4, ACMRS will be represented at the first annual Southwest Seminar, an important event for all Latin American scholars specializing in the Renaissance/Early Modern Period. This event, which will use the American Southwest and its rich Early Modern History-Spanish, Navajo, Hopi and Apache, among others-as its backdrop, will bring together experts from various fields to discuss the topic of Colonial/Early Modern Latin America. Sharonah Fredrick, Assistant Director of ACMRS, will present a paper dealing with the survival of Mayan and Andean religions during the 1500s and 1600s. ACMRS is proud to be represented as a founding member of what promises to become an important yearly gathering of Latin Americanists, and to further the understanding of the colonial/Early Modern period in Latin America. Susan Deeds, Emeritus Professor of History at Northern Arizona University, will guide the seminar as the inaugural moderator.

The American Southwest occupies an important position in the Early Modern history of the New World. The land called "The Joining of the Four Corners" in Zuni tradition was actually the focus of efforts of Spanish colonization and evangelization during the 16th and 17th centuries. It was also the site of seminal Native American cultures which coalesced in the 16th century and continued to play an important role in the contemporary southwest.

ACMRS affiliate and professor of Latin American history at NAU, Ryan Kashanipour, has organized the event in tandem with leading scholars from North and South America and Europe. ACMRS is extremely pleased to be involved in this endeavor. For more information about the Southwest Seminar, please visit their website: <http://thesouthwestseminar.org/>

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REDISCOVERING THE AMERICAS...THE ROAD TO MARLA

By Sharonah Fredrick, Assistant Director ACMRS

When scholar and researcher Edmundo O'Goorman wrote, in *The Invention of America*, that altering European cartography following the voyages of exploration and conquest in the 15th and 16th centuries was tantamount to reinventing the theological vision which had dominated Europe for over a millennium, he was understating the problem. O'Goorman, one of the finest minds in Latin American studies, could not perceive how most Medieval and Renaissance historians could ignore an obvious chronological link: the so-called "age of exploration" had begun with Spain and Portugal's forays to the Western hemisphere, a period spanning, (roughly) 1480-1580. Such a time period marks the classic transition between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance in European terms. Why then, is Latin America (and until recently recently Africa and Asia), an afterthought in so many Renaissance and Medieval study circles?

Some of the reason behind the downplaying of Latin America's role in world history has to do with outright racism, perceptions of non-European culture that are themselves, in a sense, vestiges of the Age of Exploration and Conquest. When Pero Vaz de Caminha, royal scribe to the Portuguese conqueror Pedro Alvares Cabral, remarked upon the assumed "docility" of the Native peoples of Brazil whom they encountered on Cabral's 1500 expedition, said docility was a clear sign to commercial interests in Portugal that cheap labor was at hand for colonial projects. Meanwhile Spain, had arrived late to the colonial sweepstakes (Portugal had begun Western-outbound voyages in the 1460s but kept such travels quiet) but outshone Portugal in 1492, when by publicizing the first of Columbus' four journeys to the so-called "New World." And Columbus, like Vaz de Caminha, was quick to note the "docility" of the Taino peoples of Cuba and Haiti, a fact that jibed well with Castille's political expansionism. The Americas were seen as a vast pool of cheap labor. Any cultural development in the generations preceding the Spanish and Portuguese advent was dismissed as "pagan" or "diabolical," terms which twentieth

century archaeology has done much to dispel. The "Renaissance" in Latin America is understood as the Conquest, a period in which the seminal cultures of the continents-the Incas in the Andes, the Mayas in Central America, the Zapotecs and Aztecs in Mexico, the Navajo and Hopi in the Southwest, and the Tupi-Guarani peoples of Brazil-paid a bloody and horrible price for contact with the Old World. Their civilizations had matured during the American Middle Ages, a term coined by art historian Pal Kelemen. That period of the American Middle Ages (600AD-1450) saw the rise and fall of over two hundred different cultures in Peru and Mexico alone; the proliferation of Mayan city states, Mayan astronomy and internecine Mayan warfare.....and, as in the Old World, slavery, violence and competing empire.

Serge Gruzinski has rightly stated that the trajectories of Old and New Worlds are equally cruel, and equally important for understanding the evolution of human history as a whole. In the spirit of this observation, the ACMRS is proud to launch its new book series: *MARLA: Medieval and Renaissance Latin America*. The series will chart the Medieval and Renaissance periods in the New World with an aim to understanding, not romanticizing, processes which have shaped the world that we inhabit: the multiracial Americas. The first book in the series will feature the scholarship of respected art historian, Jaime Lara.

More than ever, it is important for those who focus on Europe and those who focus on Latin America to open a dialogue. Neither world, "Old" or "New" exists in isolation, and the interconnectedness of Europe, Africa and the Americas, since the Late Middle Ages/Early Renaissance, render *MARLA* a necessity: a forum where scholarship can be measured, and engaged with, in a world context. We at ACMRS are proud to announce this exciting project, as *MARLA* will enliven and enrich dialogue pertaining to cultural development in general, during the Middle Ages and Renaissance periods, precisely the period in which our modern-day map took shape.

MARLA: MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE LATIN AMERICA

A NEW BOOK SERIES ON THE MEETING OF THE OLD AND NEW WORLDS

ACMRS (The Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies) is embarking upon a new and long-awaited addition to the study of the global Medieval and Renaissance periods (pre-1700) with the launch of a series on Medieval and Renaissance Latin America.

This series greatly expands the traditional reach of both of those periods beyond the confines of Europe, to include important civilizations that have been heretofore marginalized, or at worst excluded, from that study.

The so-called New World was a repository of medieval hopes and mythologies, and also a product of advances in Early Modern European cartography. But Native American civilizations were not simply waiting to be discovered. The peoples of the Americas, and those of Africa who were brought to the Americas, were impacted by European exploration and colonization. They had their own historical trajectories, and both alternately adapted to, and were transformed by, the Old World. The Old World, in its turn, was impacted no less profoundly by the Americas. Western thought, economy, and art continue to be transformed due to their interaction with the indigenous and transplanted African cultures of what became known as Spanish and Portuguese America.

This new book series on Medieval and Renaissance Latin America focuses on that area as a source of creation, syncretism, historical confrontation and interchange. The late Medieval/Early Modern period in Latin America saw the rise of new nations, heterogeneous in every sense of the word. That intellectual, religious, and artistic fusion embodied a new and vibrant category within the field of what is referred to as "Medieval and Renaissance Studies." It is that category that the ACMRS will explore through its new series on Latin America.

If you have a book manuscript in this area of inquiry or a proposal for one, please contact Professor Jaime Lara.

Jaime.R.Lara@asu.edu

*Medieval and Renaissance
Latin America*
A new book series on the meeting of the
Old and New Worlds



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ACMRS ANNUAL INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE IN MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE STUDIES

ACMRS invites session and paper proposals for its annual interdisciplinary conference to be held February 5-7, 2015 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Scottsdale. We welcome papers that explore any topic related to the study and teaching of the Middle Ages and Renaissance, and especially those that focus on: *"Trades, Talents, Guilds, and Specialists: Getting Things Done in the Middle Ages and Renaissance"*.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Henry S. Turner, Associate Professor of English and Director of the Program in Early Modern Studies at Rutgers University. Intellectually imaginative and energetic, Professor Turner is one of the few - and the finest - scholars now writing on the historical intersection of literature and science. His first book, *The English Renaissance Stage: Geometry, Poetics, and the Practical Spatial Arts, 1580-1630*, was awarded honorable mention from the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts, in competition for being the best book in interdisciplinary science studies in 2007.

EXTENDED DEADLINE:

The deadline for proposals has been extended to midnight Mountain Standard Time on December 5, 2014. Please submit an abstract of 250 words and a brief CV via email to: ACMRSconference@asu.edu.

QUESTIONS? Call (480) 965-5900 or email acmrs@acmrs.org.

ACMRS FALL READING GROUPS

LATIN

The Fall 2014 Latin Reading Group will be held on Wednesdays at 4:30 PM in Coor 4457. For more information, please contact Almira.Poudrier@asu.edu or Taylor.Corse@asu.edu.

OLD NORSE

The Fall 2014 Old Norse Reading Group will be held on Wednesdays at 1:30 PM in Coor 4438. For more information, please contact Daniel.Najork@asu.edu

OLD ENGLISH

The Fall 2014 Old English Reading Group will be held on Wednesdays at 11:00 AM in Coor 4457. For more information, please contact Daniel.Najork@asu.edu.

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THE BOOK NOOK:

FEATURING ACMRS PUBLICATIONS AND BAGWYN BOOKS



Staging Salvation: Six Medieval Plays in Modern English

Edited by Lister M. Matheson and William G. Marx

Adapted for performance by Lister M. Matheson, William G. Marx, Robert L. Kin-nunen; Music transcribed and arranged by Vincent J. Corrigan

Staging Salvation presents several plays from the English Middle Ages that have been newly adapted into Modern English. The plays faithfully translate the robust character of their medieval sources into lively, idiomatic contemporary speech. The poetic verse forms of the original plays have been followed closely wherever possible, making these versions reliable introductions to early English drama for students, actors, directors, and interested readers who may have no other way

to experience this most popular of medieval literary forms. Each play includes music adapted for modern performance, much of which has been transcribed from medieval sources. All the plays are supplemented by explanatory notes on their sources, language and translation, and literary, biblical, and historical allusions. The plays included in this volume are the Chester *Noah's Flood*; the Towneley *Second Shepherds' Play*; *The First Temptations of Christ* (comprising *The Temptation* and *The Woman Taken in Adultery* plays from the N-Town cycle); *The Play of Pilate* (comprising elements from six plays in the York cycle); the Towneley *Last Judgment*; and the morality play *Mankind*.



Germania Remembered 1500–2009:

Commemorating and Inventing a Germanic Past

Edited by Christina Lee and Nicola McLelland

Germania Remembered provides a genuinely multidisciplinary examination of how the remote history of Germany has been invoked in scholarly and popular imagination since 1500. It looks at the reception of sources, such as the *Germania* by Tacitus, or Old Norse poetry, in the establishment and re-invention of a 'Germanic' identity. The seventeen essays show how various aspects of ancient Germanic society – its language, religion, laws, music, poetry, and historical figures, such as Hermann/Arminius – have been re-imagined in Germany and beyond,

in disciplines ranging from philology to popular literature, from theatre and art to history, from musical theory to regional culture.

CHRISTINA LEE studied in Münster and Manchester and since 2001 has taught Viking Studies at the University of Nottingham. Her publications include a monograph on food and drink in the funerary rites of Anglo-Saxons, *Feasting the Dead* (2007), and articles on the reception of Old Norse myths, medieval concepts of 'disability,' and the impact of epidemics. She is one of two editors of the series *Studies in Early Medicine* and has been involved in several cross-disciplinary research networks.

NICOLA MCLELLAND studied in Sydney, Bonn, and Cambridge, and is an Assoc. Prof. in German at the University of Nottingham. She has published on topics from 13th-century German literature to 21st-century spelling reform. She is editor of the journal *Language & History*. Her most recent book is *J.G. Schottelius's Ausführliche Arbeit von der Teutschen Haubstsprache* (1663) and its Place in Early Modern European Vernacular Language Study.

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UPCOMING PUBLIC EVENTS



SEPTEMBER

ACMRS SCHOLAR SERIES

"Apocalypse in the Andes: Saint Francis, the Incas, and Militant Angels"

Jaime Lara, Research Professor, ACMRS

Thursday, September 4, 2014 at 7:00pm - Changing Hands Bookstore, Tempe, AZ

Click here to reserve a seat: <https://angelsapocalypse.eventbrite.com>

FEARLESS FEMALES SERIES

"Abandoned Daughter: A Venetian Nun Wages War"

Marsha Fazio, Lecturer, Division of Humanities, Arts, Cultures, ASU

Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at 7:00pm - Changing Hands Bookstore, Tempe, AZ

Click here to reserve a seat: <https://abandoneddaughter.eventbrite.com>

FEARLESS FEMALES SERIES (TUCSON)

"La Compiuta Donzella: The First Woman in Italian Literature"

Fabian Alfie, Professor of Italian, University of Arizona

Thursday, September 25, 2014 at 7:00pm - Bookmans Entertainment Exchange, Tucson

Click here to reserve a seat: <https://donzella.eventbrite.com>

OCTOBER

FEARLESS FEMALES SERIES

"Fearless Women Fighters and Writers for Their Faith in 16-17th Century Germany"

Albrecht Classen, Distinguished Professor of German, University of Arizona

Tuesday October 7, 2014 at 7:00pm - Changing Hands Bookstore, Tempe, AZ

Click here to reserve a seat: <https://fightersandwriters2.eventbrite.com>

ACMRS SCHOLAR SERIES

"John the Evangelist in Medieval Music, Exegesis, and Iconography"

Catherine Saucier, Associate Professor of Music History, ASU School of Music

Monday, October 20, 2014 at 1:00pm - Coor Hall, Room 4403, ASU Tempe Campus

Click here to reserve a seat: <https://medievalmusic2.eventbrite.com>

ACMRS DISTINGUISHED LECTURE IN MEDIEVAL STUDIES

"What is Middle in the Middle Ages? Center and Periphery in the Middle Kingdom"

Stephen West, Professor of Chinese, School of International Letters and Cultures, ASU

Wednesday, October 29, 2014 (Time and Location To Be Announced)